

[27 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(e) To start with, the Government have decided to permit futures trading in copra, coconut oil and its oilcakes only at one Exchange i.e. the First Commodities Exchange of India Ltd., Kochi.

Mad-Cow Disease

4580. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UNFAO) has declared India as posing risk to people from Mad-Cow disease;

(b) whether UNFAO has also found India to be under threat of contagious cattle diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest and brucellosis, which are rampant in various parts of India;

(c) whether some Middle East countries have banned import of Indian meat because of widespread rumours that foot-and-mouth disease is highly prevalent in India; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to check such infliction among our livestock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No communication about the presence of mad-cow disease in India from Food & Agriculture Organisation of United Nations (UNFAO) has been received. Mad-Cow disease has not been reported in the country so far. India has been declared free from rinderpest since March, 1998. Sporadic occurrence of foot and mouth disease and brucellosis is reported throughout the year.

(c) Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have issued Ministerial Decree temporarily suspending import of meat as a precautionary measure and will examine the food and mouth disease situation in India. Jordan, has not announced any ban. However, they have stopped issuing licenses for import of meat from India.

(d) The Central Government provides grants to States for

control of foot and mouth disease and other diseases of National Importance including brucellosis under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases".

The Department has requested the State Governments which have international land border to ensure that livestock and livestock products are not brought into the country by land routes and to remain vigilant about movement of animals from across the border.

The States have been advised to undertake vaccination of unaffected animals against foot and mouth disease and to control movement of animals.

Crop insurance for groundnut growers of A.P.

4581. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested for sanction of crop insurance for groundnut growing districts of Anantapur, Chuddapa and Mahboobnagar;

(b) whether the crop insurance amounting to Rs.963.42 lakhs could not be settled by the Government of India for reasons that the claimed areas are more than sown areas;

(c) whether the State Chief Minister had also urged the Agriculture Minister on 23rd September, 2000 in this regard; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Insurance claims amounting to Rs.963.42 lakh of Kharif 1999 season pertained to 42 mandals of Anantapur, Chuddapah and Mahaboobnagar districts of Andhra Pradesh, where area insured was more than the area sown.

After verification of the area and the discussions held with the State Government in the meetings convened on 24th May and